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UMKC expecting to lose \$10 to \$15 million in revenue due to pandemic, restructuring

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The coronavirus pandemic is bludgeoning UMKC's finances.

"[We are] experiencing significant financial issues right now," Chancellor Mauli Agrawal told U-News.

In an April 15 email to faculty and staff, the chancellor anticipated a net revenue loss of \$10 to \$15 million for the remainder of fiscal year 2020, which ends on June 30.

According to university spokesperson John Martellaro, UMKC expects the loss because of several factors: refunds to students for housing, dining and other service fees, a withhold in state funding, cancellations of revenue-generating events, conferences, and activities on campus and additional costs to safeguard the campus during the pandemic.

As a consequence of the financial loss, university officials have directed each aca-

demical unit and administrative department to cut budgets for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The university has frozen new hiring and most pay raises, and the chancellor's cabinet and the deans have agreed to take a 10% pay reduction.

University officials are still determining the impact of the pandemic on the budget for fiscal year 2021, which runs from July 1 2020 to June 30 2021.

"Many FY21 variables are uncertain," wrote the chancellor in an April 20 email. "Nonetheless, we anticipate that revenues will be significantly reduced."

As a result of the expected revenue reduction, leaders at UMKC have asked all administrative and academic units to cut their budgets by 12.5% to 17.5% for fiscal year 2021. Each unit will create its own budget reduction proposal which will be reviewed by the chancellor's office. Those figures could be adjusted quarterly depending on changes to the financial situation.

Agrawal indicated that achieving targeted budget cuts

would likely require furloughs, layoffs, a reduction of adjunct and non-tenure-track faculty, increased teaching loads for current professors and halting any new stipends for graduate students.

He added that cuts would also lead to "significant reductions" of non-compensation expenses, which includes food and business costs, as well as a continued freeze on travel that uses school funds.

To handle the ongoing budget troubles, Agrawal has announced UMKC Forward, a process designed to reduce the university's permanent operating budget by 15%. According to its webpage, UMKC Forward will be composed of two teams of students, faculty and staff. The first team will look at options to restructure and downsize the university, while the second team will determine new sources of investment and revenue.

"The coronavirus crisis has brought into sharp focus a long-standing issue for UMKC," said the website. "In recent years, the campus financial landscape has been one of tight budgets, narrow margins and



UMKC administration expects to lose over \$15 million in revenue due to coronavirus. Photo | Kayl Auch

low reserves. UMKC has it in its power to determine how the university will emerge from this dark period and evolve into a much more dynamic place—one that will better serve future generations in what is certain to be a very different higher education landscape after COVID-19."

By July 10, the teams will give their recommendations to the chancellor. On July 24, the chancellor will announce the final decisions. These will be implemented from August to December.

"Other changes will occur over the next two to three

years," Agrawal said.

Despite the planned restructuring, university officials have not mentioned cuts to the budget for student organizations. According to Zane Hefflin, the 2019-2020 comptroller for the Student Government Organization, little is expected to change.

"I believe the projected budget for next year will be similar to that of this year," he said.

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School of Biological and Chemical Sciences helps KU Med expand coronavirus testing efforts

Tess Hogan

Staff Writer

UMKC's School of Biological and Chemical Sciences (SBCS) is helping the University of Kansas Health System expand its coronavirus testing efforts.

The school loaned a TABI 7500 Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction machine, allowing KU Med to scale up its testing capabilities.

"The machine precisely measures the amount of a specific nucleic acid (RNA and DNA) in a tissue sample," said Leonard Dobens, a director of research at the SBCS. "For example, researchers in my lab can measure the amount of DNA in the tissues of animals blocked in cell division, while an-

other lab can measure the increase in RNA levels in cell culture starved for nutrients. It is 'high throughput' and can examine 96 different samples in a run."

The school decided to loan the equipment after realizing it could help following an update from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that outlined available regional resources.

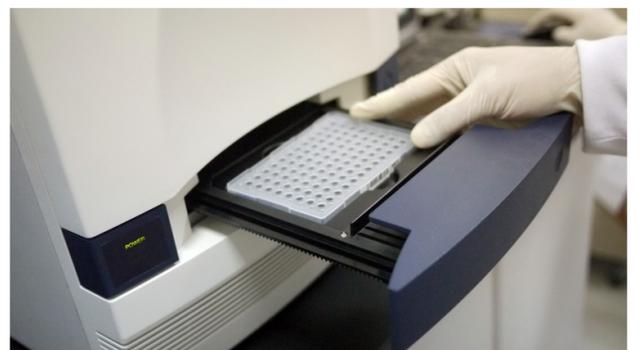
"We have two 7500 PCR (polymerase chain reaction) machines that are used for processing tests for the virus," said Theodore White, dean of the SBCS. "We are currently not doing the kind of experiments that require this equipment, so we began to identify a provider who might need one."

The school temporarily stopped using the machine as a result of the pan-

demic, and it made contact with the University of Kansas Health System after realizing there was not a need from any of the partners within the UM Health Sciences District.

Although the school has lent out the machine, it still plans to have one at its disposal once labs reopen.

"SBC is using this opportunity to refurbish a second ABI 7500 that a retiring professor has left behind so that researchers in the department will have this important tool for their own research when all the labs reopen in



UMKC sent an ABI 7500 machine to KU Medical Center to help with coronavirus testing. (source: Phillipine Genome Center)

June," said Dobens.

The machine will remain on loan for the duration of the crisis.

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NEWS

Student-led design group Egghead transitions into full-service ad agency

Annie Bolin

Staff Writer

UMKC's student design group, Egghead, is venturing into new territory as it transitions to a full-service advertising agency.

At Egghead, students are in charge. When Associate Professor of Studio Art Paul Tosh established the organization more than 15 years ago, it was UMKC's premier student design group, with an average staff of six.

Until this year, Egghead members, mainly studio art majors, focused on client-driven design work, including poster and brochure design, branding development and web design, Tosh said.

Now, in collaboration with Dr. Ye Wang of UMKC's Department of Communication Studies, Egghead is inviting communication studies majors to join.

Students can enroll in a cross-listed course for art and communication studies majors alike, which places them in a variety of Egghead roles like account planner, project manager, designer and copywriter. Last semester, the class had more than 30 students who worked in teams to design advertising campaigns for four clients.

"This allowed students on both sides



Once a design group for UMKC students, Egghead is becoming a full advertising agency that provides students with real-world experience. (Egghead)

to experience working with others in an agency setting and experience what is required to completely bring a project together, from original planning to completion," Tosh said.

Going forward, through the course "ART/Comm-ST 493, Egghead: Student Advertising Agency," Egghead members will work with actual clients to produce real-world marketing projects, Tosh said.

He said these solutions will involve design, art direction, photography, web design, production management, copywriting, public relations, social media and motion graphics.

Egghead rebranded its own social media presence in preparation for this

transition and is using their Instagram account to introduce members and market the agency's services.

Junior studio art major and Egghead designer Makayla Booker expressed excitement for the change.

"Social media is how we will get the word out that Egghead is up and ready to go," Booker said.

Senior communication studies major Serena Stoetzer, who is a project manager at Egghead, added that social media is a tool for the agency to draw in new members.

"Not as many people know about us on campus as we would like, so we're just wanting some exposure and to reach out to students and say, 'Hey, look at what you can do at Egghead,' because it's great real-world experience," Stoetzer said.

Booker said their social media presence could bring new clients to Egghead, which is a goal for the agency as it expands its services.

"We hope that we will entice other clients, but who we work with has always been fluid," Tosh said.

In the past, the majority of Egghead's clientele was limited to the UMKC community, including the Art & Art History Department, the Swinney Center and Lucerna at UMKC's Honors College. Beyond campus, Egghead has worked with the Guadalupe

Center, the Black Repertory Theatre and the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center, Tosh said.

A diverse clientele is important to Egghead's members as they bulk up their portfolios before graduation.

"Having these connections in the community is really helpful for students getting ready to graduate," said senior studio art major Emily Juliana.

Juliana, a project manager and designer at Egghead, said she hopes this opportunity for real-world experience entices new students to join as Egghead's social media channels grow over the summer.

One challenge to Egghead's transition is UMKC's move to online instruction, since members often work in person with their clients.

Despite the difficulties, Egghead has big plans.

"In general, we're trying to take it a little bit farther than campus, but we're still really familiar with everything going on around campus," Stoetzer said. "The plan is that we're able to charge for our services and then reimburse students at Egghead for their work, like a paid internship."

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How local businesses are adjusting to COVID-19

Fannie's, STUFF, Queen Sweets, Thou Mayest, Caleb's

Annie Bolin

Staff Writer

U-News is supporting Kansas City's local business scene with a weekly column featuring businesses and their responses to COVID-19.

This week: Fannie's West African Cuisine, a store named STUFF, Queen Sweets & Mediterranean Grill, Thou Mayest Coffee Roasters and Caleb's Breakfast & Lunch.

Fannie's West African Cuisine

Since Fannie Gibson opened Fannie's West African Cuisine two years ago, customers have flocked to its location on Troost for traditional African dishes.

Gibson, who is from Liberia, opened Fannie's after she amassed a large social media following by posting pictures of her recipes.

Before Kansas City's stay-at-home order, Fannie's took over 10 reservations a day, Gibson said. Now they're relying on delivery and carry-out orders to stay afloat.

"I feel like I'm all over the place," Gibson said of running her restaurant on her own while her employees are at home to avoid getting sick.

Gibson is grateful for her customers' loyalty as she navigates the financial impact of a restaurant with no dine-in service and limited staff.

"I have orders back to back," Gibson said. "People actually want me to ship food out of state, so there's still a lot of business, but it's a struggle when I don't have help."

Queen Sweets & Mediterranean Grill

Originally a Jordanian bakery, Mohamed and Kay Bataineh quickly transformed Queen Sweets & Mediterranean Grill into a full-service Middle Eastern restaurant after they opened the neighborhood favorite two years ago.

As a family business, Queen sweets has only four employees, with Kay as head chef, co-owner Mohamed Bataineh said. Kay's baklava brought the restaurant fame, and now her chicken shawarma is their most popular dish.

Like many other small business owners adapting to COVID-19 restrictions, Bataineh is grateful for his loyal customer base, who he said comes to Queen Sweets specifically for Middle Eastern cuisine.

Determined to support his employees, Bataineh hasn't made any layoffs.

"It's hard on them, so we kept them on," he said of his employees. "Whatever money we are making, we split it with them."

Bataineh is hopeful that COVID-19 won't cause any lasting financial difficulties for Queen Sweets, located in the Northland, especially as he and his wife plan to open a second location in Lenexa.

"Hopefully we'll stay afloat," Bataineh said. "Right now we're paying our bills and paying our employees because they're the ones making any money for us. It will come around."

Thou Mayest Coffee Roasters

Thou Mayest Coffee Roasters is a place for the people with a mission to roast fresh

coffee and create a welcoming environment. Now, just one employee at a time runs Thou Mayest while the shop offers carry out coffee orders.

"It seems like in our industry, the environment is the biggest thing that people are looking for, an environment where they can hang out and connect with people," said Retail Operations Manager Austin Averill. "All of a sudden, it's all about spacing out and safety first above everything else."

Thou Mayest also sells ground and whole bean coffee online, now offered at quantities up to five pounds.

"Our online sales right now are that of Christmas," Averill said. Thou Mayest's wholesale operation is flourishing, too, he said, since many smaller coffee shops have lost their wholesalers.

Even more rewarding is the response from customers. The shop's location in the Crossroads is central to many in the medical community, who Averill said are "extremely grateful" that Thou Mayest is still providing caffeine.

The shop is also distributing masks made by sewKC, which is housed next door to Thou Mayest in the coworking space Collective Ex.

"It's been a really different, stressful experience," Averill said. "But it's not too hard to recognize the things that are benefitting our business and making us better people and a more well-rounded company."

Caleb's Breakfast & Lunch

Rebecca Huntsman opened Caleb's Breakfast & Lunch to honor her son's love for food and cooking shows. The res-

taurant, located in South Kansas City's Red Bridge Shopping Center, quickly became a neighborhood favorite.

Now, with Caleb's closed to dine-in services, Huntsman is still seeking to serve the neighborhood that welcomed her business so warmly in late 2018.

After their initial closure, Caleb's offered free pancake breakfasts for kids for about three weeks, placing teddy bears in their windows as an extra treat. Now, Huntsman said, they're offering free curbside snacks for kids on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m., along with free curbside coffee every day from 7 to 9 a.m.

Huntsman is grateful for her dedicated customers as they continue placing orders, adding, "every day they thank us for being open."

Her staff, just as dedicated, hasn't gone unnoticed, either.

"All things considered, we're doing well," Huntsman said. "Everybody's just trying to pitch in and help out and do whatever we can to keep our doors open."

In addition to delivery and curbside pick-up, customers can purchase gift cards to be used when Caleb's reopens for dine-in services.

a store named STUFF

Sisters Casey and Sloane Simmons opened a store named STUFF in the 1990s to make art accessible and support their community.

At their Brookside store, the sisters sell work by local and international artists and makers alike. Now, they're focused on online sales and "virtual happy hours" on Facebook, where customers can post comments

to buy items, co-owner Casey Simmons said.

"Our customers love every bit of it," Simmons said, grateful for her customers' support.

While STUFF customers love connecting with them, the Simmons sisters are still unable to reach a large portion of their customers through social media. Simmons said that as a "brick and mortar store," STUFF sales have been significantly impacted.

"Our goal right now is what we call 'hangin' in and hangin' on' until we get to the other side and reopen our store," Simmons said.

Before Kansas City's stay-at-home order, Simmons and her sister laid off all of their employees, leaving the store to just the two of them. Simmons called it a "tough decision," but one that paid off. STUFF employees filed for unemployment early and received their benefits within a couple of days "before everything got backlogged," Simmons said.

STUFF is exclusively direct shipping all online orders of select products on their website and offering personal shopping over the phone.

To support small businesses like STUFF, Simmons encouraged consumers to buy locally, even if it's less convenient. Customers can support STUFF by buying gift certificates, which Simmons said is one of the best ways to support small businesses.

"Small businesses really need people right now," Simmons said. "We don't want to have Kansas City's landscape change completely because of this."

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From the Senate to the Supreme Court, our government needs institutional change

Brenden Hill

Staff Writer

Right now, the 2020 election and the coronavirus are prompting a lot of discussion of the cultural and economic problems in the U.S. Sadly, the institutional changes that are needed to address these issues are rarely part of the discussion.

People believe things like the structure of the Senate or the way the courts are set up are set in stone. However, that just isn't true. These different institutions are the way they are now because of how they have evolved.

The best example of this is the filibuster, which is a rule that allows senators to block legislation that is being debated. Many would be surprised to learn that it is not found in the constitution, nor was it used all that much throughout history. It is simply a mechanism that has wormed its way into the arcane rules of the Senate. The fact that it does not have historical backing or much historical usage means that getting rid of it is not that crazy of an idea.

While congressional reform is something that many are at least open to discussing, the Supreme Court is an institution that many think is untouchable. However, it has changed greatly over time. The clearest change has been to the number of justices. Now we have nine, but there have been times when there have been 15 justices. That is a big deal in terms of how it holds power in the court, and it shows that, like the Senate, the rules of the court aren't set in stone.

These two examples show how the more important insti-



The Capitol Building in Washington D.C. (nps.gov)

tutions of the U.S. are far more malleable than most people would think. This is important to understand: To tackle many of the problems the country faces, these institutions will likely have to change, too.

There are several interesting ideas out there on what needs to change and how. One of the best ideas is making it so the U.S. territories, which are continuing reminders of America's colonizing past, can have a clear pathway towards statehood or independence. Another idea is reorganizing the jurisdiction and membership of House committees to more

evenly distribute the most important issues and duties across a wider spectrum of committees and members.

The court is more complicated, but something needs to be done to try to make it less of the hyper-partisan mess it has become. One proposal that has been discussed is filling some of the highest courts with a group of rotating justices from the federal court level. That isn't the only idea being floated around—another proposal is to have current justices approve new appointees. The hope is that this would lead to a more middle-grounded court. At the

end of the day, these are still just theories or ideas, but the most important thing is that these ideas even get discussed, because too often they are seen as "extreme" and ignored.

All of this might seem unrelated to the colossal problems facing both the world and the U.S. How does changing the committee structure help deal with economic inequality or climate change? Would reworking how the justices get appointed make that much of a difference?

Right now we are stuck in a paralysis of governance where things can get done, but only if

there is a crazy amount of pressure on it. That is unsustainable, and the issue has played a major role in creating the partisan war zone that is now American politics. Making it so more things could be done easier is the only solution, and that requires institutional change. Not everything those in power will do or pass will be good or popular, but if they can actually get them done, then elections will actually matter again.

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COLUMN

Celebrating Women in STEM: Dr. Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel

Madalyn Weston

Staff Writer

Math: one of the most hated subjects in school. When we're young, we're frustrated because factoring makes no sense. In college, partial differential equations will literally make you sick to your stomach. As an adult, we scream while we "help" children with their math homework. But many specialists around the world are working to change math education for the better. One of those amazing people is statistician and educator Dr. Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel.

Çetinkaya-Rundel was born in Istanbul, Turkey, and came to the United States for college. She completed her Bachelor of Science in actuarial science in 2004 from New York University's Stern School of Business. She spent two years working as an actuarial associate at Buck Consultants, during which she passed the first two actuarial exams. In 2006, she started her graduate work at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), completing a master's in statistics in 2008 and a Ph.D. in 2011. Her dissertation was titled "Estimating the impact of air pol-

lution using small area estimation." She also co-authored an open-source textbook for intro-level statistics, titled "OpenIntro Statistics."

After graduation, Çetinkaya-Rundel accepted an assistant professorship in the Department of Statistical Science at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. She served as the director of undergraduate studies from 2015 to 2018 and reached the next step of the tenure track, associate professor, in 2016. Çetinkaya-Rundel focuses on student-centered learning and open-source education. Statistics is a difficult course to liven up, but she researches the effectiveness of new teaching methods, like flipped classroom and active learning, on student retention and self-efficacy.

On top of her work at Duke University, Çetinkaya-Rundel is also an educator on Coursera and a data scientist/professional educator for RStudio. She has an impressive publication record, with three OpenIntro books in the last 10 years, more than a dozen peer-reviewed papers published or under review, and an additional 17 blog or magazine publications. She also has eight published technical reports and five pieces of software. In addition to

her writing and coding, Çetinkaya-Rundel has given more than 50 invited talks and more than 20 conference presentations or posters.

Çetinkaya-Rundel has earned multiple awards for her work in statistics and education. In 2014, she won the David and Janet Vaughan Brooks Award for Teaching Excellence from Duke University. In 2016, she won the Waller Education Award from the American Statistical Association. In 2018, she was awarded the Harvard Pickard Award. Last year, she was elected to the International Statistical Institute. Çetinkaya-Rundel has also been awarded several grants, including a grant for STEM for All from Duke University, worth \$15,000 per year, and a grant from the National Science Foundation for a workshop titled "Preparing Graduate Students for Careers in Teaching Statistics and Data Science."

Today, Çetinkaya-Rundel is wrapping up her sabbatical from Duke University. She spent the 2019-2020 academic year across the pond at the University of Edinburgh, serving as a senior lecturer in Statistics and Data Science.

Are you interested in empowering



Dr. Çetinkaya-Rundel (Coursera)

women in the STEM fields? The Women in Science (Wi-Sci) group wants you! Email President Emily Larner (emily.larner@mail.umkc.edu) for more information.

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SPORTS

The inspiring journeys of 2020 NFL draft picks

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Although planned for Las Vegas, the 2020 NFL Draft was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It may have been an unusual event, but regardless of the location, emotions and accomplishments were on full display as many athletes finally reached their life-long goal of making it into the NFL. One big takeaway from the draft was that many of those drafted are playing for more than just themselves.

Courageous, generous, protector, eager and resilient. These are a few words one would use to describe Austin Jackson of the University of Southern California (USC). He's the kind of guy that works hard on and off the field. Jackson is more than an athlete. In fact, he's a hero in his little sister's eyes.

At birth, Autumn, Jackson's sister, was diagnosed with Diamond-Blackfan anemia. According to USA Today, Diamond-Blackfan anemia is a rare inherited disorder that prevents bone marrow from producing red blood cells. Autumn was in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant that would help preserve her life. But who could help her?

Prior to being drafted in the NFL, Jackson put a brief pause on his football career to rescue Autumn. There was only a 25% chance that Jackson would be a match for the transplant, yet he was. While away from the field, Jackson donated his bone marrow to



Austin Jackson was drafted by the Miami Dolphins in the 2020 NFL Draft (Mile High Report) revive Autumn's life.

This year's NFL draft was one for books. Jackson was welcomed into the Miami Dolphins' NFL family on April 24 from the comfort of his home.

"Beyond blessed that the Miami Dolphins took this bet on me," Jackson said on Instagram. "I'm excited to get to work and prove them right."

There were more than tears of joy for fellow prospect Henry Hugs III when he was drafted. Since high school, Ruggs has been playing for more than himself, fame, or his family—he's been playing for his best friend.

On March 3, 2016, Ruggs and his best friend, Roderic Scott, planned to drive to a state basketball tournament

until the Ruggs fell ill the night before. Scott caught a ride with another group and tragically died in a car crash. Ruggs held on to the guilt of not driving that day.

"I lost myself," Ruggs said in an interview with ESPN. "I felt like I was supposed to be there."

Scott always told Ruggs that he could play for Alabama and had the chance to make it to the NFL. He was right: Ruggs went to Alabama, playing for them both and carrying on his best friend's legacy. He took on the motto "3's up," representing Scott's favorite number. Every time he enters the field and scores a touchdown, it's "3's up."

Ruggs was able to complete that legacy when he received the call that he was going to the Las Vegas Raid-

ers.

"It was tears of joy," Ruggs said to 247 sports. "I've been working for this forever. My family has been anxious for this moment, and getting that call, it's just a joyful experience."

From growing up homeless, moving state to state, living in basements, using the restroom outside and seeing dead bodies to becoming a first-round NFL draft pick is more than a cause for celebration for Javon Kinlaw of the University of South Carolina.

"We went without electricity, no water things like that," Kinlaw said, reflecting on growing up homeless. "We had to use the neighbor's holes to fill up totes of water, light the gas stove with a match, get a tall pot and boil the water, add some cold water and take it upstairs to shower."

Those are some of the things that Kinlaw still to this day isn't comfortable talking about, and they leave him with nightmares. But one thing he can take away from it all is what it has taught him today.

"You just can't ever give up on yourself because there's going to be times where you aren't going to see the light or understand where you're at in your life," Kinlaw said at the NFL combine. "Whatever you're doing, you just have to finish it seeing it all the way through because you never know what's at the end of the tunnel waiting for you."

Kinlaw saw it all the way through for himself and he now a member of the NFC Champion San Francisco 49ers.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The perfect game for quarantine—'Animal Crossing: New Horizons'

Adriana Macias

Staff Writer

Your whimsical island getaway awaits. If you are looking for ways to entertain yourself during quarantine or ease your mind in this stressful time, look no further. Nintendo has your back with its latest release, "Animal Crossing: New Horizons."

Staying true to the original design, creator Katsuya Eguchi kept his simple and pleasing aesthetic with a new and modern twist. This roleplaying game (RPG) offers a bit of nostalgia to the millennials who may have played the original Animal Crossing, released in the early 2000s, while also adding in modern elements such as giving your character a cell phone to help navigate the gameplay.

It is the perfect game to get lost in for hours and is geared for collectors. One nice perk of this edition is "Blathers Museum," a facility your character helps establish by donating the first 30 fossils and creatures the island provides. The museum simulation alone allows for a tranquil experience and offers growth with the endless space for exhibits.



A peaceful night in Animal Crossing: New Horizons

The initial mission starts out the same: to pay off your debts. Moving to a deserted island cost bells, the game's currency. The get-away specialist and host, Tom Nook, helps your character keep focus with task missions. Starting off with simple tent-kits, Tom Nook gives your character the responsibility of placing your neighbors' tents, mapping out the foundation of your island.

Once your character pays off one debt, you unlock new

statuses. Over time and in moderation, new bugs, fish, fossils and even rare art pieces appear in the gameplay for you to sell and donate. Moving up in the ranks on the island, your character, with new loans from Tom Nook, embarks on building cozier houses and a lavish life on the island.

With only you and two other travelers starting a new life on this island, the game allows for the D-I-Y concept to build your own tools with the abun-

dant resources from the land adventured, wherein prior versions tools and furniture were traded among friends and neighbors in the game.

The game is peaceful, and you choose what goals you are after every day, whether that be selling fruits and shells you've collected or digging up and donating fossils to the museum. The game gives you an incredible amount of responsibility with the reassurance that everything will be alright.

"New Horizons" is stress-reducing and what everyone could be using during COVID-19 to safely social distance.

One of the favored features of "New Horizons" is the fact it reflects real time. For example, if you are playing at 6:00 p.m. in real time, the game will even display the sunset. The game includes changes in the weather and seasons as well. If you have friends who also play, one of the unique features of the game is online play with friends. You can travel to your friends' islands or to random islands via local play, which makes for a unique way to virtually hang out with friends and keep you safe.

The replayability is high. If you are a beginning gamer, don't fret—it is easy to learn the controls and excel quickly through the game. The replayability is different because the game doesn't necessarily have a sure ending. Out of your options to purchase, rent, buy on sale or stay away from this game, I can safely say, after logging 40 hours, it is worth the purchase. That is assuming you have the luck to find the sold-out game and console.

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